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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

IN RE APPLICATION OF: Gang XIE  
SERIAL NO.: NEW U.S. PCT APPLICATION  
FILED: HERewith  
INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO.: PCT/JP04/10285  
INTERNATIONAL FILING DATE: July 13, 2004  
FOR: METHOD OF OPERATING FUEL CELL

**REQUEST FOR PRIORITY UNDER 35 U.S.C. 119  
AND THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION**

Commissioner for Patents  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313


Sir:

In the matter of the above-identified application for patent, notice is hereby given that the applicant claims as priority:

<b><u>COUNTRY</u></b>	<b><u>APPLICATION NO</u></b>	<b><u>DAY/MONTH/YEAR</u></b>
Japan	2003-274819	15 July 2003

Certified copies of the corresponding Convention application(s) were submitted to the International Bureau in PCT Application No. PCT/JP04/10285. Receipt of the certified copy(s) by the International Bureau in a timely manner under PCT Rule 17.1(a) has been acknowledged as evidenced by the attached PCT/IB/304.

Respectfully submitted,  
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